

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03943 01 OF 02 171744Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /057 W  
-----127539 171827Z /64

O R 171650Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1273  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMCONSUL BELIZE  
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 3943

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PDIP, PINT, HO, US  
SUBJ: MEETING WITH JUNTA

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3926

1. SUMMARY: WITH A BATTERY OF PHOTOGRAPHERS PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING, I MADE MY FIRST FORMAL CALL ON THE NEW JUNTA ON AUGUST 16. I USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERLINE U.S. INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE BORDER DISPUTE. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE JUNTA, GENERAL PAZ SOUGHT TO MAKE IT AS CLEAR AS HE COULD THAT THE ARMED FORCES WILL RESPECT THE ELECTORAL TIMETABLE, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, WORK TOWARD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SEEK TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES WITH EL SALVADOR. MOST ENCOURAGING NEWS WAS PAZ' STATEMENT THAT CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT BUESO WILL REPEAT WILL REMAIN AT HIS PRESENT POST. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 16 I CALLED UPON THE NEW HONDURAN MILITARY JUNTA: GENERAL POLICARPO PAZ GARCIA, LT. COL. DOMINGO ALVAREZ CRUZ, AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03943 01 OF 02 171744Z

LT. COL. AMILCAR ZELAYA RODRIGUEZ. MANY REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN WERE PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS MEETING, WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE WIDELY COVERED IN THE LOCAL PRESS AS EVIDENCE OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP'S CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

3. I TOLD THE JUNTA THAT THE PURPOSE OF MY CALL WAS TO TRY TO ESTABLISH A FRANK RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM SO THAT WE COULD COM-

MUNICATE EASILY AT ALL TIMES. I REFERRED TO THE NOTE ON THE CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS WHICH I HAD TAKEN EARLIER TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REFTEL. I STATED THAT THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN SEVERAL THINGS WHICH I WISHED TO RECAPITULATE SO THAT THEY KNEW WHERE WE STOOD AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. I INFORMED THE JUNTA THAT I HAD REPORTED ON THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL'S STATEMENT AND THAT I HOPED THEY WOULD LIVE UP TO THESE.

4. TOUCHING FIRST ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, I STRESSED ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. I SAID, QUOTE THE PRESS WILL BURN YOU AT TIMES BUT IF ONE CANNOT STAND THE HEAT IN THE KITCHEN, ONE SHOULD NOT ENTER IT UNQUOTE.

5. AS IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT I WOULD NOT RECEIVE A RESPONSE UNTIL THE END OF MY PRESENTATION, I REVIEWED THE UNITED STATES INTEREST IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND WHETHER THE ELECTION CALENDAR WILL BE ADHERED TO. I SAID, QUOTE YOU MILITARY MEN WILL BE JUDGED BY WHAT YOU DO AND NOT WHAT YOU SAY UNQUOTE.

6. REMINDING THEM THAT THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS GOES BEYOND ELECTIONS AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, I TOUCHED UPON THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS. LOWERING MY VOICE, I NOTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE ECONOMIC APPOINTMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE NEW APPOINTEES. I CONTINUED, NO ONE COULD TELL THEM WHO TO APPOINT BUT AS A FRIEND OF HONDURAS I WANTED THEM TO KNOW WHAT THE IN-

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 03943 01 OF 02 171744Z

TERNATIONAL BANKING COMMUNITY THOUGHT. I CITED BUESO, CALLEJAS AND MARINAKYS WHO ARE FAVORABLY KNOWN ABROAD. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT MINISTERIAL AND AGENCY LEADERSHIP SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY A GOOD REPUTATION. GIVEN HONDURAS' GREAT INTEREST IN THE EL CAJON DAM, I PARTICULARLY STRESSED THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IF THE PROJECT IS TO MOVE AHEAD.

7. TOUCHING ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, I MADE KNOWN OUR INTEREST IN THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY TO BE FOLLOWED. I MENTIONED HOW THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION HAS BEEN FALLING IN HONDURAS. THE ANNUAL INCREASE IN VALUE OF PRODUCTION ROSE 7.7 PERCENT FROM 1960 TO 65. IT WAS UP 3 PERCENT FROM 1966 TO 70, AND THEN ONLY 0.6 PERCENT FROM 1971 TO 76. THIS MADE AN IMPRESSION UPON COL. ALVAREZ WHO TOOK NOTES AT THIS POINT. I MENTIONED TO THE JUNTA THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE (AGRICULTURAL POLICY COMMITTEE). HAS BEEN PREPARING CAREFULLY A REPORT ON HONDURAN AGRICULTURE, WHICH I URGED NOT BE SHELVED.

8. FINALLY, I TOLD THEM I WANTED TO MENTION A SUBJECT WHICH I NEED NOT COVER IN DETAIL BECAUSE THEY KNEW FAR MORE ABOUT IT THAN I DID, PARTICULARLY GENERAL PAZ WHO IS A HERO OF THE WAR

OF 1969 (WITH EL SALVADOR). I ENCOURAGED THEM TO BECOME NOT ONLY WAR HEROES BUT MEN OF PEACE. IF PEACE COULD BE OBTAINED, A HEALTHY CENTRAL AMERICA COULD BE BUILT. I EXPRESSED OUR PLEASURE THAT PERU'S FORMER PRESIDENT, BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO IS COMING TO MEDIATE.

9. AFTER LISTENING VERY CAREFULLY, PAZ REPEATED WHAT I SAID ALMOST VERBATIM, RESPONDING TO ME POINT BY POINT WHILE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA OCCASIONALLY SMILED AND NODDED. PAZ SAID THAT HONDURAS WILL RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. HE SAID THERE IS EVERY INTENTION OF MEETING EVERY SINGLE ELECTORAL COMMITMENT.

10. TOUCHING ON ECONOMIC APPOINTMENTS, PAZ STATED THAT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEGUCI 03943 01 OF 02 171744Z

VERY FEW INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE. HE NOTED THAT EVEN CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT BUESO WILL BE STAYING.

1. ON THE SUBJECT OF PEACE WITH EL SALVADOR, PAZ PROMISED THE JUNTA WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO COOPERATE WITH MEDIATION EFFORTS. HE STATED THEY REALLY WANT A LASTING PEACE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03943 02 OF 02 171746Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /057 W  
-----127591 171827Z /64

O R 171650Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1274  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMCONSUL BELIZE  
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 3943

12. AS I TOOK MY LEAVE I RETITERATED MY AVAILABILITY TO THEM AT ALL TIMES AND THEY, TOO, PROMISED TO BE ACCESSIBLE.

13. COMMENT: I HAD ONLY EXPECTED TO MEET WITH PAZ AND NOT THE ENTIRE JUNTA, BUT IT IS JUST AS WELL THAT THEY ALL LISTENED TO MY RECITATION OF AMERICAN CONCERNS AND INTERESTS IN HONDURAS. WHILE GENERAL PAZ IS SOMETIMES THOUGHT OF AS A SLOW THINKER, HE FOLLOWED MY PRESENTATION VERY CAREFULLY, WITHOUT TAKING NOTES, AND RESPONDED POINT BY POINT. HE SEEMED A LITTLE MORE AT EASE THAN USUAL, BECAUSE HE LOOKED AT ME WHEN SPEAKING INSTEAD OF LOOKING IN EVERY DIRECTION OR AT HIS HANDS AS IS HIS CUSTOM. I THINK I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEIR ACTIONS IN THE AREAS OUTLINED ABOVE WILL DETERMINE THE CHARACTER OF OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP.  
JARAMILLO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JUNTA, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TEGUCI03943  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780336-0997  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEGUCIGALPA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780852/aaaabqzv.tel  
**Line Count:** 186  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 230b7061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 TEGUCIGALPA 3926  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1704533  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEETING WITH JUNTA  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PGOV, PDIP, PINT, HO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/230b7061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014